CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1960.

Medical Officer of Health

N.F. SAWERS, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

L.W. BLAKE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk

Mrs. P.M. Gill.

Mr. Chairman & Members of the
Crediton Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present the report for 1960.

Flooding came as a disaster in the Fordton area of the town and only quick action by volunteers and the emergency services stopped loss of life. The flood brought a heavy increase in the amount of work to be done by the Public Health Department.

It is hoped that the Council's decision to instruct their Consulting Engineers to revise the sewage scheme prepared some years ago will now result in the unsatisfactory state of affairs being rectified.

As in the previous year I should like to thank Mr. Blake for his contribution to this report which has been produced in his department by Mrs. Gill.

I am, Madam & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

N.F. SAWERS

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	1,096
Registrar General's estimate of population ...	4,250
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1960 according to the rate book	1,486
Rateable Value	£60,588
Product of a Penny Rate	£243

2. VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Live Births

Male	Female	Total
41	38	79

Births illegitimate

Male	Female	Total
4	3	7

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of population	12.47
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 of population	11.97
Live Birth rate for England & Wales in 1960	17.1

(b) Still Births.

There were no still births in 1960.

(c) Deaths.

(a) Death Rate.

Male	Female	Total
17	34	51

Average age of death 72

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 12·71

Corrected death rate per 1,000 of population 10·17

(b) Deaths from puerperal causes

1960 - Nil

(c) Infantile Mortality.
(Deaths of infants under one year of age.)

1960 - Nil

(d) Causes of death as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Cardio Vascular	14	24	38
Central Nervous System	-	-	-
Respiratory Diseases	1	3	4
Accident	1	-	1
Other diseases than Cancer	-	2	2
CANCER			
Lungs	1	-	1
Stomach	1	2	3
Bowel	1	-	1
Other Sites	-	1	1

(e) Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

Measles	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Scarlet Fever	Nil
Enteric Fever	Nil
Diarrhoea	Nil

SECTION B

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

a Nursing Service.

A resident District Nurse employed by the Devon County Council adequately provides this service.

b. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These are visited at home by a Devon County Council Health Visitor.

c. Maternity & Child Welfare Services.

This District Nurse Midwife working in co-operation with the General Practitioners provide the basis for ante-natal care, confinement and post natal care. In addition Home Helps are provided by the Devon County Council in appropriate cases.

In cases where home conditions are unsuitable confinement arrangements are made for the mother to go to Redhills Hospital, Exeter.

Child Welfare and Maternity Clinics are held at Newcombes weekly and during 1960 attendances were as follows:-

Mothers	Children	Total.
1664	2109	3773

The children were as follows:-

Infants	Toddlers	Children
1009	1100	2109

Vaccinations, diphtheria and poliomyelitis immunisations are available at this Clinic but a fuller use could be made of the service.

d. Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases.

There are no centres in Crediton for these diseases. Cases of Tuberculosis are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer at Ivybank, Exeter and he then decides whether they are nursed at home or sent to Hawkmoor Sanatorium.

e. Infectious Diseases.

These are nursed at home and if the Doctor in attendance considers they should be transferred to hospital they are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital.

f. Ambulances.

The Devon County Council control the ambulance service and at present one ambulance is stationed in Crediton and run by the Crediton Branch of the Red Cross.

g. Laboratory Works.

All laboratory examinations required are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

h. Mass Radiography.

The mass radiography unit visited the district and the following miniature film examinations were completed:-

Males: 279 Females: 336 Total: 615

It was felt that the response was considerably helped by the printing and distribution of leaflets in the area.

SECTION C

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

a. Sewerage

During the year the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Harvey, McGill & Hayes proceeded with the revision of the existing scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal improvements.

Lords Meadow works were used to the best of their restricted purification but unsatisfactory samples were being taken in the River Creedy.

The existing small sewage pumping station at Threshers Road has proved capable of pumping all the discharge in the area. Main sewers are still adequate for flow except for two areas liable to surcharge in heavy rain.

b. Water.

The water supply position is still a very happy one with adequate supplies of water available and the state of works, equipment and mains very good indeed.

During the year water was taken from each source as follows:-

Uton Borehole	38,001,000
Walson Adit	44,367,000
Total	82,368,000

Metered supplies during the year amounted to 15,248,340 gals. that is about 41,800 gals per day.

The maximum supply week was 24th - 30th June when about 268,000 gals. per day was consumed as against the average of 225,600.

Mains extensions were carried out and as a result of a new 4" main from George Hill Reservoir to Forches Cottage being laid a new fairly large area of the town was opened up for development.

Samples taken of treated water resulted as follows:-

Uton Borehole

Total Samples Taken	23
Satisfactory	22
Unsatisfactory	1

This unsatisfactory sample was taken immediately after the severe flooding when the pumphouse was under water.

Walson Adit.

Total Samples Taken	20
Satisfactory	20
Unsatisfactory	Nil

A few complaints were received regarding the taste from free chlorine but on testing, the free chlorine never proved to be excessive.

c. Public Conveniences.

The Council's Public Conveniences have been maintained during the year but some improvements must be soon carried out to raise the standard.

d. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Council's kerbside refuse collection proceeds satisfactorily with the weekly collection proving adequate.

Trade refuse remains at about the same level as the previous year.

The refuse tip at Punchbowl has been kept fairly well covered which is a very difficult job with the very high face left exposed after each day.

No complaints were received during the year about vermin or flies from the tip.

e. Rodent Control.

The Council's rodent control service adequately dealt with the few complaints received during the year although more than normal the number of complaints were received after the flooding.

The following work was carried out during the year:-

Properties	No.	Hours	Visits.
Private	15	60	121
Business	-	-	-
Council	2	5	10

FLOODING

The last quarter of 1960 brought disastrous flooding to Salmonhutch and Fordton and increased work tremendously.

On Friday, 30th September extensive flooding of the Yeo Valley took place after a rainfall of 4.25 inches in 4 days.

Practically no warning was given and consequently extensive damage took place, part of which might have been averted with a warning system.

On the following Friday flooding again took place but this time with all services alerted evacuation proceeded smoothly and danger to property was minimised.

As a result of the flooding, eight cottages were extensively damaged and had to be closed. At Salmonhutch 5 houses were flooded to a depth of between 1'0" and 1'6" but due to help from the Council's staff flood water was removed within two hours and very little damage occured to the structures.

At Fordton however the position was very different with 31 houses being flooded in addition to the eight destroyed. The depth of flood water in these houses varied between 7" and 5'6" and damage to the structures was considerable.

The help of the military authorities was obtained and hanger warming plants were brought in complete with R.N. personel. These machines produced a rapid drying of surface moisture and built up latent heat in the structure to help the normal fires when re-lit, but seemed liable to cause damage to the structure if the excessive heat was used for long periods.

As there are no sewers in the area flooding had little effect on drainage and due to the effected being at the extreme end of water mains no difficulties resulted.

f. Sanitary Inspections.

(a) Summary of Visits.

Council properties	156
Private Housese	265
Food Premises	31
Slaughterhouse	163
Other Premises	209

(b) Notices Served.

Housing Acts.

Time & Place Notices	4 properties
Demolition Orders	3 properties
Undertakings not to re-let	2 properties
Undertaking to repair	1 property.

Public Health Acts. Nil

Informal Notices. 2

Fumigations.

During the year treatments were carried out as follows:-

Ants	1
Flies	1
Wasps	6

eight

SECTION D

5. HOUSING

General Housing.

During the year the Council did not build any houses.

Private housing proceeded at an accelerated speed resulting in 24 private houses being built, half of these being on Waresfoot Estate.

With the clearance of Church Street area the Council will be able to build six one bedroomed flats on the site.

Slum Clearance.

One further family of three persons was rehoused during the year leaving only two properties occupied in Clearance Areas.

During the year the following houses were demolished:-

No. 7 (Mill Street) Clearance Area	8 houses.
No. 8 (Eaton Place & Bank Place) Clearance Area	1 house.
No. 15 (Church Street) Clearance Area	6 houses.
No. 19 (Exeter Road) Clearance Area	3 houses.

The position with regard to the 16 Clearance Areas at 31st December, 1960 is as follows:-

No. of Houses in Clearance Areas	87
No. still occupied	2
No. demolished	43
No. to be demolished.	44

Five of the Chalets at Newcombes were still occupied but four families were rehoused from individual unfit houses, two from flood damaged houses and one from a local authority unfit house.

Housing List.

The position at the end of 1960 was:-

No. on Council Waiting List - 97

of these, 65 people were residents of the town and 32 people wishing to move into the urban area.

Accommodation required by families on the list were:-

One Bedroom	31
Two Bedroom	38
Three Bedroom	28

Building Byelaws.

The following inspections were made for enforcement of the Council's Building Byelaws:-

Foundations	24
Oversite concrete	11
Damp-proof course	17
Drains	32
Routine	30
Completion	49

Improvement Grants.

One application was received for a Discretionary Grant and this was refused.

Standard Grants.

Ten applications were received for Standard Grants, all of which were approved.

Five contracts were completed and resulted in 4 baths, 5 hot water supplies, 3 larders, 5 wash-hand basins and 4 W.C.'s being provided. £509.3.10 was paid out in Grants.

Housing Subsidies Act, 1956.

Necessary inspections were made to comply with the Act and nine families were rehoused.

Moveable Dwellings.

The five sites for caravans remained during the year, two sites being for one caravan only.

Two applications were submitted under the new legislation and these were still not decided upon at the end of the year.

SECTION E

6. FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year the following food was voluntarily surrendered for condemnation:-

258 tins (various)

11 Jars Tomatoes.

Ice Cream.

One further new registration was made for the sale of ice-cream making a total of 21 premises registered.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the district.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

Standards under these Regulations have been maintained during the year and are now reasonable in most premises.

One or two food shops still leave something to be desired and unless the standard does rise will leave themselves open to possible prosecution.

Prosecution.

After complaints of beetles in the soup served to several hundred school children the Council took action against Messrs. T. Lee & Sons (Crediton) Ltd. for selling food unfit for human consumption.

The firm pleaded guilty but were given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £1.1.0. analyst's fee and 4.0. costs. The prosecution costs were not allowed.

Milk and Dairies.

The premises in the District are maintained satisfactorily and the following licences were issued during the year.

Dealer's Licences for Pasteurised Milk	4
Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	4

During the year the new premises for Bladen Dairies were partially reconstructed necessitating the demolition of part of the old galvanised iron factory and the building of a modern plant. The old factory left a lot to be desired but this should be overcome shortly.

Slaughter of Animals.

During the year the licence for one private slaughterhouse was renewed.

The following carcases and offal were inspected:-

	1960	1959	1958
Cattle	277	239	204
Calves	5	-	5
Sheep & Lambs	607	390	235
Pigs	509	415	203

The standard of animals slaughtered in the slaughterhouse is very high indeed and consequently only the following was condemned:-

5 Bovine livers (flukes)

3 Pig's lungs (pneumonia)

There were two slaughterman licensed in the area.

SECTION F

7. FACTORIES.

Two factories were added to the Register during the year and one was deleted increasing the number to 46.

33 inspections were made of Factories on the Register.

Two factories submitted Outworkers Lists in August, details of which are as follows:-

Handwork on flare parachutes	4
Making wearing apparel	27

Of these, 27, only three were outworkers resident in the Urban District.

In addition the following details were notified from other authorities:-

Field Coils	1
Knitting	1
Gloves	5

SECTION G

8. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified Infectious Diseases.

No cases of infectious diseases were notified.

Appendix 1

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.
In Whole or in Part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	277	Nil	5	607	509	Nil
Number Inspected	277	Nil	5	607	509	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole Caracases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	1·80	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.59	Nil
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil ,	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil